

MESOPOTAMIAN MINUTE

- Current News on Agriculture & USDA in Iraq -

Office of Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy, Baghdad

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Widows In Diwaniyah Learn Beekeeping – Ag Advisor Omar Shwani conducted beekeeping training for 10 widows in Diwaniyah who before the training had little opportunity for income generation. In addition to assisting these women, bees are important for crop pollination, honey production and a source of income. The beekeeping farm will assist the local economy by providing jobs and a local source of food for the population. This project will support



rely heavily on this unit to maintain their produce.

Baghdad PRT Supports Cold Storage – PRT Baghdad will support the conversion of an existing storage unit in Green Ma'dain into a two-story cold storage facility. Local farmers will see immediate benefits from the cold storage unit. Their goods can go directly from the field to the cold storage facility. The cold storage unit will help ensure fresh good are marketed which may result in a steady and reliable income for local farmers once it is operational. Because of the lack of cold storage, farmers will



Iraqis Attend International Poultry Expo In Atlanta – USDA Marketing Advisor, Mohamed Ibrahim accompanied 13 (8 pictured) Iraqi businessmen to the 63rd annual poultry exposition. The Iraqis met with representatives of U.S. poultry producer and feed company representatives during their visit as well as attended a poultry seminar. The Iraqis were very satisfied with the substance and content of the exposition.



Iraqi Agribusiness Leaders Talk – USDA staff hosted local agribusiness leader for a conversation over dinner. Many of the business leaders expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of support for agribusiness development offered by the Ministry of Agriculture, but also expressed confidence in Iraq's potential to develop its agriculture sector to increase production and sales.

Personnel Update - There are currently 30 USDA personnel in Iraq including those with Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), at Embassy Baghdad or embedded with U.S. military units.

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